

NIKO ZARZANI - Senior Product Designer | AI Design Engineer

Education

UX Courses

at Interaction Design Foundation

2024 – 2026, Remote

Laurea Magistrale, Ingegneria Informatica (Computer Engineering), 110/110 cum Laude

at Politecnico di Milano

September 2011 – April 2014, Milan (MI), Italy

Master of Science, Computer Science, 4.0/4.0 GPA

at University of Illinois at Chicago

March 2012 – December 2013, Chicago (IL), USA

Laurea Triennale, Ingegneria Informatica (Computer Engineering), 105/110

at Politecnico di Milano

September 2008 – September 2011, Milan (MI), Italy

Diploma di Liceo Scientifico, Liceo Scientifico Piano Nazionale Informatica, 100/100

at Liceo Scientifico Leonardo da Vinci (Jesi)

September 2003 – July 2008

View more information at: <https://niko.zarzani.it/background/education/>

Experience

Senior Digital Product Designer at Nautes S.p.A.

June 2021 – Present, Jesi (AN), Italy

Digital Product Designer at Nautes S.p.A.

January 2016 – June 2021

Software Engineer at Nautes S.p.A.

March 2014 – January 2016

Research Assistant at University of Illinois at Chicago

September 2012 – December 2013, Chicago (IL), USA

Software Engineering Lab Tutor at Politecnico di Milano

March 2012 – June 2012, Milan (MI), Italy

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About me

Senior Digital Product Designer and Project Manager with 12+ years of experience designing, prototyping and delivering mobile and web products. I combine product strategy, UX/UI design, project leadership, technical understanding and AI-assisted workflows to help teams transform complex business needs into scalable, user-centered solutions, leading products across their full lifecycle from discovery and concept to launch and production.

Currently at Nautes, I lead product discovery and strategy, gather business and user requirements, manage priorities across design and development, mentor junior designers, and contribute hands-on to interface design and interactive prototyping using Figma, FigJam, Notion, Jira, Claude and other AI tools and agentic frameworks. I regularly use AI to accelerate research synthesis, ideation, prototyping, documentation, and product exploration, while ensuring that outputs remain aligned with user needs, business goals and technical feasibility. I have successfully managed multiple projects for major Italian and international clients under tight deadlines and budget constraints, ensuring strong collaboration across stakeholders, designers and development teams.

My background in development and previous AWS Certified Developer Associate experience give me a strong technical foundation, enabling me to create accurate implementation specifications, collaborate effectively with engineering teams and support smooth, high-quality design implementation. I have worked across AI, IoT, logistics, insurance, sustainability, pharmaceuticals, fashion, food, construction, furniture, and home automation. Curiosity is my driving force, pushing me to continuously explore emerging technologies and design better ways for people, businesses and intelligent systems to interact.

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Languages

Italian (Native), English (Intermediate), French (Elementary)

English Certifications: TOEFL iBT (September 2011); First Certificate in English (March 2008)

Awards

View more info at: <https://niko.zarzani.it/background/awards/>

"Bitrock Smart Hackathon" 1st prize at the Hackathon organized by Bitrock prototyping a smart tool to help employees that work remotely maintaining healthy social relations, stay motivated and collaborate with their colleagues.

May 2023 (Milan)

"Teoria della Relatività, dai suoi fondamenti ai reattori nucleari" won a scholarship at the Physics Contest organized by "Fondazione Occhialini" at the "Liceo Scientifico G. Marconi".

January 2010 (Pesaro)

"XIV Edizione della Biennale dei giovani artisti dell'Europa e del Mediterraneo - Skopje 3-12 settembre 2009" won a travel to the XIV BIENNIAL OF YOUNG ARTISTS FROM EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN @SKOPJE 2009 to present the project in Applied Arts category.

March 2009 (Milano)

Design & PM Projects

View more projects at: <https://niko.zarzani.it/work/>

Generative AI for Corporate Education:

A training platform that offers on-demand learning based on the user's needs, using a maieutic approach to stimulate real, lasting, and sustainable learning. The app generates responses in various modes, ranging from concept maps, texts, videos and audio, in line with the user's consumption desires. The platform does not provide neutral answers and content, but starts from a customized knowledge base that reflects the company's identity making use of GenAI for autonomous creation of constantly updated training content.

Skills: UX/UI Design, Project Management

2020-2024

Bridges Management System:

A cloud-based digitization platform for safety assessment in accordance with Italian bridge guidelines. The aim of the platform is to allow engineers to inspect bridges while inputting data through the mobile app (on-site) and the web application (remotely). Once bridge information is synchronized, the platform can automatically compute the safety risk, show insightful dashboards with KPIs and charts, and export multiple report files.

Skills: UX/UI Design, Project Management, Architecture and tech stack selection

2022-2024

Digital Aircraft Refueling Vehicles

An IoT project aiming at tracking and collecting data coming from smart aircraft refueling vehicles. The operations of refueling, defueling, tank loading and fuel recirculation, which were previously managed manually through the control of valves, have been analyzed and redesigned to make the vehicle completely digital through the installation of 4 HMI touchscreen displays that allow to assist and guide the user automating the on-board electronics control during operations at the airport. All data collected during the operation are then transferred to the cloud where the operation managers can monitor the status and operations carried out by their own fleet of vehicles.

Skills: UX/UI Design, Project Management, Architecture, tech stack and hardware selection

2023-2024

Design & Development Projects

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Integrated Digital Platform for Health, Wellness and Performance:

I designed and developed a comprehensive progressive web application combining healthcare services and fitness activities, creating a unified digital ecosystem for professionals and clients. The platform includes a back office for trainers, physicians, psychologists, nutritionists and administrative staff, enabling centralized management of clients, treatment programs and appointments. A public web portal presents the company's services and improve user engagement, and includes an AI-powered chatbot for immediate assistance and an intelligent assessment questionnaire that guides users toward the most suitable pathway, such as rehabilitation, nutrition, psychological support, aesthetic wellness or fitness programs. A secure client area lets users access personalized workout plans, nutrition programs, appointments, progress reports and goals.

Skills and tools: UX/UI Design, AWS Architecture, VueJS + Nuxt, Directus, OpenAI APIs

2026